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TAGS: MARR, PREL, UG, US
SUBJECT: COMPENSATION FOR USE OF ENTEBBE FACILITIES

REF: A) JTF/EMBASSY FAX, DATED 9/14/94 (NOTAL)
- B) KAMPALA 7211 AND 7125
- C) STATE 186396

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST - SEE PARA FIVE.
2. (C) IN LIGHT OF VARIOUS REQUESTS BY GOU AUTHORITIES
FOR SERVICE AND OTHER FEES RELATED TO RWANDAN RELIEF

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OPERATIONS, AND SEPARATE BUT RELATED ISSUE OF FORMALIZING U.S. MILITARY ACCESS TO UGANDA, WASHINGTON INTERAGENCY GROUP SEEKS POST'S VIEWS PRIOR TO FORMULATING A COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO THE GOU REQUESTS.

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3. (C) JTF HEADQUARTERS AT ENTEBBE AIRFIELD HAS ACKNOWLEDGED, AND WASHINGTON FULLY CONCURS, THAT GOU OFFICIALS HAVE GIVEN U.S. PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN OPERATION SUPPORT HOPE "VIRTUAL FREE REIN AT A MINIMAL COST" (REF A). FURTHERMORE, THE GOU REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF DOD INTEREST IN CONTINUED ACCESS TO UGANDA AND LEGAL PROTECTION OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL OPERATING THERE IN SUPPORT OF FUTURE OPERATIONS.

4. (U) WITH THIS SAID, HOWEVER, THE GOU REQUEST FOR LANDING AND RELATED FEES RUNS COUNTER TO U.S. POLICY AS DEFINED IN REF C. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT IMPOSE SUCH CHARGES (NAVIGATION/OVERFLIGHT, LANDING, PARKING AND SIMILAR FEES) ON FOREIGN STATE AIRCRAFT VISITING OR

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TRANSITTING THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH REF C ALLOWS FOR PAYMENT OF LANDING AND PARKING FEES AT COMMERCIAL AIRFIELDS IF REQUIRED, THE U.S. DOES NOT NORMALLY PAY SUCH FEES WHEN OPERATING IN SUPPORT OF A U.N. MISSION SUCH AS OPERATION SUPPORT HOPE.

5. (C) ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S THOUGHTS ON HOW THE GOU WOULD LIKELY REACT IF ASKED (BY THE U.S. OR U.N.) TO WAIVE ALL LANDING AND RELATED FEES RESULTING FROM U.S. PARTICIPATION IN OPERATION SUPPORT HOPE, GIVEN THE HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF THE MISSION. (FYI: AS OF 9/14, THESE FEES AMOUNTED TO USD 300,000.) DEPARTMENT ALSO SEEKS EMBASSY'S CLARIFICATION OF THE GOU'S SEPTEMBER 2 REQUEST FOR USD 10.8 MILLION. (REF A SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS AN UNOFFICIAL PLEA FOR FOREIGN AID AND NOT A FORMAL GOU BILL FOR DAMAGES TO ENTEBBE AIRFIELD, AS CHARACTERIZED IN REF B.) ACCORDING TO JTF/ENTEBBE, REPAIRS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN ON SOME RUNWAYS AND DOD HAS ALLOCATED APPROXIMATELY USD 40,000 IN OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUNDS TO RESTORE DAMAGED RUNWAYS TO PRE-OPERATION CONDITIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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